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Story Script and Shot log

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STORY HEADLINE: Sapporo informs IOC about potential interest in hosting Olympic Winter Games 2030.

LOCATION: Olympic House, Lausanne, Switzerland.

DATE: January 11, 2020

LANGUAGE: English, Japanese

Broadcast quality footage available at the IOC Newsroom: <http://iocnewsroom.com>

STORY SCRIPT:

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach met in Lausanne, Switzerland, (Saturday, Jan 11th) with a delegation from the city of Sapporo, Japan, and the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC).

The Mayor of Sapporo, Katsuhiro Akimoto, informed President Bach and Octavian Morariu, Chair of the IOC Future Host Winter Commission, about the discussions his city has been holding with the JOC to formalise an interest to host the Olympic Winter Games, 2030.

The JOC President, Yasuhiro Yamashita, elected as IOC Member on Friday January 10th, was also present at the meeting.

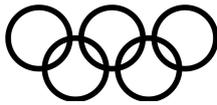
The IOC was impressed with the motivation for Sapporo's interest, which already meets some of the priorities for future Games delivery, in particular winter editions, by addressing legacy and climate change.

The IOC's new approach for future host elections establishes a continuous dialogue with interested parties and provides additional flexibility regarding potential Games hosts; the location of venues and election timings, which are adjusted to ongoing context and needs and not necessarily seven years before each Games edition.

SHOTLIST:

00:05 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).

'First of all, thank you very much for being here and being interested in the life of the IOC and, in Olympic sport.'



“We had a very fruitful meeting this morning with the mayor for Sapporo, who informed us about the conversation that the city of Sapporo is having with the Japanese Olympic Committee with a view for candidature for the Olympic Winter Games 2030.”

“The mayor explained to us the motivation behind these intentions to organise the Olympic Winter Games 2030.”

“We at the IOC were very much impressed by this explanation, by this motivation because it meets exactly two of the high priorities of the IOC for the future organisation of the Olympic Games and in particular the Olympic Winter Games.”

“The first point there was legacy and the legacy in different respects. First of all to build with such an organisation on the legacy of the Olympic Winter Games 1972 in Sapporo.”

“And on the other hand to strengthen the legacy with which Tokyo 2020 we leave to Japan.”

“When you speak of legacy we also speak of the so called hard legacy but as well as and sometimes even more important, also the soft legacy.”

“The other point was that Sapporo were interested to show a way that winter sport and the Olympic Winter Games can address the challenges of climate change.”

“This is an effect and also a top priority for the IOC because we will have to see and we are studying what climate change means for winter sport and for the Olympic Winter Games and, in general, we are undertaking many measures, many of them already being applied for Tokyo 2020, to reduce the carbon footprint of any Olympic Games.”

“With regard to the technical capabilities of Sapporo, there can be no doubt about this. We know this already from for the candidature for 2026.”

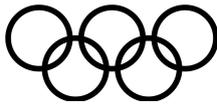
“And the new improvement in the infrastructure in Sapporo makes such a plan even stronger and even more excellent than it was at the time and it was already excellent at the time.”

“And about the organisational skills there can also be no doubt that Sapporo is giving evidence to this by organising the Olympic marathon and the race walks in an extraordinary way with a very efficient and very professional approach, so this gives us all the confidence for a really great success of these Olympic races in 2020, but also makes us very very confident then with regard to the organisation of an Olympic Winter Games.”

“There, I would like to thank the people of Sapporo and the people of Hokkaido for their great efforts and the great contribution they’re going to make to the success of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.”

05:16 SOUNDBITE: Katsuhiko Akimoto, Mayor of Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan

“Thank you very much President Bach.”



“Today in the meeting this morning I talked about 3 topics.”

“The first topic was the great earthquake that we experienced in Hokkaido 2 years ago, the recovery effort and the consequence of this earthquake has been going steadily and last year in September we could successfully host one of the games during the Rugby World Cup in Japan.”

“The first topic that I talked about was Sapporo hosting the football, marathon and competitive walking at the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.”

“The venue change was quite sudden so we didn’t have too much time but we have been able to decide on the course.”

“We believe this course is going to be a great course not only for the athletes but also for the people who are going to be watching these races.”

“We believe that the people will be able to enjoy the cool climate of Hokkaido or Sapporo as well as our urban area which, although it’s a city, is full of greenery and there is plenty of nature around.”

“We would like to form a very strong team together with the organising committee of Tokyo 2020 as well as other relevant people to make this event a success.”

“Last but not least, I talked about our candidacy to host the Olympics as well as the Paralympic Games in the winter of 2030.”

“Concerning the bidding process last year in November our city Sapporo expressed our formal interest in participating in the bidding process to the JOC.”

“The JOC will soon decide on which city to give as a candidate to host the Winter Olympics and once this decision is made and provided that we are chosen, we would like to enter into a continuous dialogue with the JOC.”

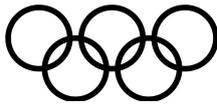
“And we asked the IOC for their kind suggestions as well as cooperation in our endeavour to become a candidate to host the Winter Olympics and President Bach gave me warm words.”

07:50 SOUNDBITE: Yasuhiro Yamashita, JOC President

“This morning I also participated in the meeting of Mr Mayor from Sapporo as well as President Bach from the IOC. Me, in the role of the president of the JOC as well as a newly elected member of the IOC.”

“I was listening to the meeting and I felt that the meeting was a very intense meeting.”

“As you know already we conducted a research to see which cities would be interested in hosting the Winter Olympics in 2030 and Sapporo was the only city that expressed interested by the deadline.”



“On the 29th Jan the JOC will hold its council meeting and one of the main topics that is going to be discussed will be the candidature of who will host the Winter Olympics in 2030. No other city has volunteered themselves so if the JOC council decides on Sapporo as a candidacy, Japan will formally submit to the IOC Sapporo as its candidate city.”

“So once Sapporo’s candidacy is confirmed during the council of the JOC, the JOC will promptly inform the IOC about the official candidacy of Sapporo to host the 2030 Winter Olympics.”

“Also while participating in the session this morning I felt that there was a great appreciation as well as great trust from President Bach as well as Mr Coates, the Chair of the Coordination Committee, concerning the preparations in Tokyo as well as in Japan.”

“The Sapporo candidacy for the hosting the Winter Olympics in 2030 needs to be formally decided but before that, our utmost priority is to make Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games a success.”

“So as the President of JOC as well as the vice chair of the organising committee for the Tokyo 2020 Games as well as a new IOC member, my highest priority will be to make the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games a success, so that the athletes from all over the world will be able to perform at their highest level.”

“To receive praise from the IOC members as well as the people who have gathered from all over the world as well as the athletes and the coaches, that the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympics will be a great games is very very important for us, and we believe that this will lead also to the successful first step towards hosting the 2030 Winter Olympics in Sapporo.”

“Also I felt while attending the meeting today that the IOC is putting a lot of emphasis and importance on leaving not only a hard legacy but also a soft legacy as well as considering how the global sports world can contribute to the creation of a sustainable society and I renewed my awareness on the importance that the IOC puts on these things. So as President of the JOC, vice chair of the organising committee for Tokyo 2020 as well as a new IOC member, I would like to try my utmost in order to contribute to these goals.”

Q. When can we expect a decision for 2030 at the earliest?

12:35 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).

“This is too early to tell and you would have to ask Mr Morariu as he is the chair of the commission, and this commission will set the pace. But we have just learnt yesterday with the election of Gangwon for the Winter Youth Olympic Games 2024 what the speed of this commission is, so I think it will not take forever. We will have a proposal but, again it’s too early to speculate and it’s in the hands of the commission.”

Q. How does the new policy of dialogue with candidate cities help?

14:00 SOUNDBITE: Thomas Bach, IOC President (English Language).

“I think the dialogue helps both sides very much because it is a human experience that the best results you achieve in a dialogue, not just by imposing anything, either from the organising committee to the IOC or from the IOC to the organising committee. These



dialogues are inspiring and so this was something that we could also experience this morning when we heard the motivation from the Mayor there. We could see that there is a certain match and this applies to legacy and sustainable organisation but this also applies to climate change because the mandate of the commission of Mr Morariu is not only to look for future hosts but the mandate expressively also says that this commission should consider what impact climate change has, or will have, on winter sports and the organisation of Olympic Winter Games. So this dialogue, which we hope that we can formulate after the JOC decision, will already be from the very first moment about this very long term effects. And this is another advantage of this procedure, because in this way we can address some of the challenges already at an early stage and then we were also very much encouraged to hear Minister Hashimoto supporting this approach and appreciating this initiative of the city of Sapporo and Mr Mayor.”

Q. Looks like a done deal, are you asking other interested parties to hold off?

17:00 SOUNDBITE: IOC President Bach (English Language).

“No (laughter) We are in fact, we are as I said, impressed with what we have heard today and by what we know by the (20)26 candidature, which could for the reasons of the earthquake not be followed through at the time. So it is a very strong foundation there. And as I’ve also said that technically we cannot see there any major issues, but there are also other cities or regions in the world who have already shown interest and maybe one or another feel encouraged, so we will have this open dialogue with them and then it will be up to Mr Morariu and the commission how to shape this dialogue and which advice to give to which city.”

Q Hosting efficiently some events from Tokyo 2020 could be an advantage for Sapporo to be awarded the 2030 Winter Olympic Games?

18:45 SOUNDBITE: IOC President Thomas Bach (English Language).

“Yes (laughter). Of course this would greatly help. From what we have seen this will be the case that we will have excellent marathon and race walks and also football matches in Sapporo. And this change were also be greatly appreciated by the athletes, which we could hear and experience yesterday in the IOC Session here. And also these athletes have great confidence in the people of Sapporo and in the people of Hokkaido, and we are sure it will be an exciting event and everybody will really enjoy it. The people of Japan, Sapporo and Hokkaido, they show all their skills in organisation, in efficiency but also their great hospitality there for the athletes of the world. And this, I guess, at least would impress me and I guess also Mr Morariu and his colleagues will be impressed.”

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